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A N T I C I P A T I O N :

Containing the Substance of

H I S M-----Y's

M o s t G r a c i o u s S p e e c h

T O B O T H

H-----S o f P----L-----T,

O N T H E . .

O p e n i n g o f t h e a p p r o a c h i n g S e s s i o n ,

T O G E T H E R

With a full and authentic Account of the DEBATE
which WILL take Place in the H-----E of C-----s,
on the Motion for the ADDRESS, and the AMEND-
MENT,

With N O T E S.

(First published three Days before the Opening of the Session.)

“ So shall my Anticipation
Prevent your Discovery.” HAMLET.

THE NINTH EDITION, Corrected.

L O N D O N :

Printed for T. BECKET, the Corner of the Adelphi
in the Strand. 1778.

NOTIFICATION

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Advertisement.

SEVERAL reasons concurred to urge the Editor to this publication. The critical situation of public affairs seemed to require an extraordinary diffusion of political knowledge; yet, in the common course, but few of the millions, who are so deeply interested in the result of parliamentary debates, can be admitted to an audience of them. Sometimes, the Members shut their galleries against the intrusion of any of their Constituents; and it is always a standing order, from the opening of the session, to prohibit the publication of their debates. Under these circumstances, an authentic account of the first days debate, put forth at this date, will clearly avoid any breach of that order, and, without exposing the Constituents to crowding in the gallery, to furnish them with their Representatives Speeches, taken down with the strictest fidelity, cannot but afford them some amusement, and indeed

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deed real use. Besides, the first days debate is generally a kind of outline of the debates of the whole session; so that a critical observer, by contemplating the buds and seedlings of this early eloquence, may calculate what degree of radical strength they possess, how far they will expand and bloom, and whether they are hardy enough to stand the winter.

The Editor cannot but seize this opportunity to thank those Gentlemen who have furnished him with the *most authentic materials* for some of the speeches, which, they will immediately see, he has copied *verbatim* from their manuscripts---and he sincerely hopes, their having appeared in print *before* they are spoken, will not deter the several Gentlemen from delivering them with their usual appearance of *extempore* eloquence.

November 23, 1778.



ANTICIPATION, &c.

Dom. Comm. Jovis. 26 Nov. die.

Anno 19^o Georgii III Regis, 1778.

SIR Francis M——x, gentleman-usher of the black rod, having, with the usual solemnity, at half past two o'clock, given three admonitory raps at the door of the H—e of C——ns, and, being thereupon admitted, having proceeded towards the table, with three progressive bows, acquainted the S——r, * that his M——y commanded their immediate attendance in the H—e of L—ds, where soon after his M——y delivered his most gracious speech to both Houses; which we should give at length, having an accurate copy now before us, but that many reasons concur to induce us

* It was observed the S——r was remarkable civil to the new Att-rn-y G-n-r-l, as supposed upon his succeeding to that great object of his wishes, which leaves Sir F——r some chance of a Chief Justiceship and a Peerage.

rather to give a general sketch of it. It is scarcely necessary to say, that respect to that great personage is the principal of those motives: It is also universally felt that the merit of those speeches consists much less in the composition than in the delivery. Besides, as an authentic *black letter* copy of *this* speech will infallibly appear, we have too high a respect for our good friends Messrs. the Hawkers and Criers of this great metropolis, to rob them of any part of the fruits of their annual eloquence on this occasion——The speech began by saying,

“ That the situation of public affairs, had induced him to call them thus early together, that they might more fully enter into the various and important concerns which would naturally engage their attention.

“ That he had reason to hope that the schemes which the natural enemies of this country, in conjunction with their unnatural allies, had meditated against us in the West-Indies, notwithstanding some appearance of success, might, under Divine Providence, fail in the object of distressing the commercial interest of his people, which, it gave him satisfaction to observe, had hitherto continued to flourish amidst the calamities of war, while that of the enemy had received the most material injuries.

That

“ That he could not but behold with particular pleasure the zeal and ardour shewn by all his subjects on this emergency, which had fully secured the safety of this country, and convinced our enemies that every attempt against the internal prosperity of Great Britain must prove ineffectual.

“ That he continued to receive the most friendly assurances of the pacific dispositions of the other powers of Europe.

“ That his desire of re-establishing the general tranquility could not be doubted; and as he had not been the first to disturb the peace, so he should embrace the earliest opportunity of putting an end to the horrors of war, whenever that desirable end could be effected, consistently with the honour of his crown, and the interest of his subjects, which he should ever be careful to preserve.

“ That his faithful C-mm-ns might depend on the proper officers immediately laying before them the estimate for the expences of the ensuing year.

“ That he lamented that the present situation of affairs should oblige him to call upon his faithful subjects for any additional supplies but

“ That his faithful C-mm-ns might depend on the strictest œconomy on his part, in the application of such sums as they should judge necessary for the public service, and

he doubted not they would see the expediency of providing for such contingencies as might arise from the continuance of war, and the measures necessary to be taken for the re-establishment of peace upon an honourable and permanent foundation.

“ It concluded with relying on the wisdom and unanimity of Parliament; on the good conduct of his Generals and Admirals; on the valor of his Fleets and Armies; and on the zeal and spirit of all his faithful subjects.”

Upon the return of the C—ns to their House, the speech having been read as usual from the chair, a motion for an Address, conformable to the several sentences in the speech, and expressive of the firmness and unanimity of the House at this important crisis, was made and seconded by two young Members; the particular phraseology of which leading speeches we shall not retail, it being universally admitted that the rhetoric applied to these occasions, is not very replete with originality. Our readers will easily imagine the proper quantity of tropes and metaphors, apologies for inexperience, elegant timidities, graceful blushes, studied hesitations, army safe at New-York, fleets likewise safe, individuals enriched, perfect content at home, nothing wanting but unanimity in council, &c. &c. &c, which ornamented and enriched these
anniver-

anniversary panegyrics. We shall hasten therefore to the more material part of the debate, which commenced by the following speech from Lord G——by*, proposing the amendment.

Lord G——by. Conscious of my own inability, and sinking under the sense of my little knowledge or experience, totally unprovided with any ideas for the present occasion, and absolutely ignorant, not only of the forms but even of the modes of proceeding in this house, may I, Sir, in this state of imbecility, be permitted to take the lead on this first and most important day of the session? May I, Sir, all unequal to so arduous a task, be allowed to dictate, if not to the whole house, at least to this side of it, the proper and only constitutional method of compelling ministers to furnish us with the means of discovering some errors in their conduct; and to enable us to demonstrate to the nation at large their total incapacity for filling the places which they now hold?—There was a time, Sir, when this side of the house would not tamely acquiesce in so dangerous a precedent as any minister's retaining his office for the unconstitutional duration of seven years,

Lord
G——by.

* Exempli gratia, for whether it is his Lordship's speech, or Lord J. C-v-nd-sh's, or Sir W. M-r-dith's, or Sir G. Y-ng's, &c. the subject matter and stile, with a few exceptions, is of course much the same.

Have

Have we forgot, Sir, the great name of Pulteny? Pulteny, Sir! the virtuous Pulteny! Pultney, the wonder of the age! Pulteny, that steady Patriot, whose Herculean eloquence overcame the Hydra of corruption! or have we forgot, Sir, that inestimable character of our own times, whose virtues compelled the admiration of this profligate age; whose memory excites the veneration of every patriot mind? Let it not be objected that these illustrious characters were dazzled by the splendour of a coronet; I will not answer such frivolous remarks:—Sir, I wander from the question: Yet let me remind this House, that those great patriots were ever foremost in taking that part which now falls to my lot. They, Sir, were ever ready to awaken the fears, and rouse the apprehensions, of the Country Gentlemen; and that, Sir, is my object:—They, Sir, compelled Adm-n-str-t-n to disclose the inmost recesses of official iniquity; and that, Sir, that is also my intention. Sir, with this view, I shall humbly move you, that in place of the present Address, which I cannot but consider, as the selfish penegyric of Adm-n-str-t-n, immediately after the general expressions of respect for his M——y, the following words may be substituted, in order to our acquiring that full and comprehensive knowledge of public affairs, which

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is so indispensably necessary at the opening of this interesting and important session of P-rl--m-nt.

“ Your faithful C-mm-ns, deeply impressed with a sense of your M——y’s unwearied anxiety to promote the dignity and glory of Great-Britain, cannot but lament the many unhappy circumstances which have conspired to disturb your M——y’s happiness, and to prejudice the interests and honour of this country. When we find that the most liberal supplies for our naval equipments have as yet produced none of those happy effects which might reasonably have been expected to be derived from so powerful an armament, particularly under the direction of an officer of experienced conduct and courage, we cannot but express our serious apprehensions of some fatal misconduct, either on the part of administration, by forming indecisive and contradictory instructions for the direction of the Navy, or, in the particular department for naval affairs, of some misapplication of those liberal supplies, which, if wisely and faithfully applied, could not have failed, under divine providence, and your M——y’s wisdom, of obtaining the most salutary effects.

For these reasons, we, your M——y’s most faithful C-mm-ns, most humbly intreat your M——y to order the proper Officers

to lay before the House, Copies of the secret instructions for the conduct of the Fleet commanded by Admiral K-pp-l—Estimates of the quantity of ballast used in the several ships of the division of the fleet, commanded by Admiral K-pp-l—Bills of parcel of the number of square yards of sail-cloth, together with samples of ditto, intended to be used in the division of the Fleet commanded by Vice Admiral Sir H-gb P-ll-f-r—Succinct accounts of the quota of biscuits, and ratio of salt beef distributed in the Fleet—Faithful transcripts of the several Log-Books of each vessel—Abstracts of all letters, notes, and messages that passed and repassed, off Ushant, between the Admirals and Ph-l-p St-v-ns, Esq. during the course of last summer—And, finally, minute copies of all accounts unsettled or passed, open or closed, paid or unpaid, between the Commissioners of the Navy, and all sorts of Manufacturers, Sailors, Contractors, &c. &c. &c. employed by them for these twenty years last past—It is from a minute investigation of these important papers, that your M—y's most faithful C-mm-n's can alone derive just grounds for censure or exculpation. And, however laborious this investigation may prove, we, your M—y's most faithful C-mm-n's, beg leave to assure your M—y, we shall most readily devote our utmost attention

zention to so salutary a study, in order to promote a quick dispatch of public business at this momentous and awful crisis, and to give vigour and effect to those measures which your M——y, in your great wisdom, may think necessary to secure the safety, interest, and honour of Great Britain."

Such, Sir, is the amendment which I have the honour to offer to the consideration of this house. It will immediately strike you, Sir, that in the accounts which I propose to have submitted to the investigation of P-rl--m-nt, I have avoided asking for one scrap of paper, that is not absolutely necessary to be seen and thoroughly studied by the House. Should it, however, appear necessary to Gentlemen to *add* to the list of these official documents, I am sure I shall not oppose such an improvement to the motion, to whatever quantity it may extend.

Mr. G--g- S-tt-n seconded the motion for the Amendment, beginning with a similar acknowledgement of his incapacity, his inexperience and ignorance of P-rl--m-nt-ry affairs; declining therefore to enter into any further argument, the subject having been discussed in so full and able a manner by his most noble cousin.

Mr. *Well-bere Ellis*, in reply, threw out many sagacious and novel observations. He said

Mr. G-g-
S-tt-n.

Mr.
W-l-b-re
Ell-s.

said that he highly commended the caution and circumspection of the noble Lord, but, that in his opinion, a more proper time would arrive, about six months after Christmas, for entering into the details proposed by the Amendment ; as, at that period, Administration would certainly have more leisure for furnishing the papers now called for.

He very properly observed, that selecting these few curious articles of political intelligence from a variety of miscellaneous papers, would require some short time, together with no small degree of discernment, not to mention several thousands of extra clerks. He said, he had taken the trouble to make a most serious investigation into the Journals, the Votes, the Debates, and all the P-rl--m-nt-ry Records of this country ; and he was free to say, that notwithstanding it might at first appear rather a novel idea, yet it was his opinion, that *The Address* on the first day was a matter of compliment. Nay, touching the matter before him, (and weighty and powerful indeed it was) after the most mature and serious deliberation, daily and nightly, he would for once venture to hazard a rhetorical, a figurative expression, to wit, that the Address was an eccho, as it were, a complimentary eccho, of his M——y's most gracious speech.--He hinted, that, if any
Gentleman

Gentleman wished for particular enquiries, he would, as an old Member, long conversant with the forms of the House, tell him, that certainly a Committee might be appointed to carry on any public enquiry; and he believed such Committees were not unfrequent.--And here he remarked, that from all his researches, it appeared to him, that the constitution of this country was of a triple nature---K-ng---L-rds---and C-m-m-ns---that, these three opposite and repelling powers, reciprocally ballanced and counteracted each other; at the same time that they contributed to the proportion and harmony of the whole.---He took occasion to observe, that freedom of Debate was clearly a P-rl--m-nt-ry privilege, and he would pledge himself to prove that every Member in that House was a representative of his constituents.

For these reasons, he concluded with dissenting from the Amendment as trite, abstruse, dangerous, and frivolous.

D-v-d H-rtly, Esq. * observed, that these were no times for flattery and empty adula-
D-v-d
H-rtly
Esq.

* Here Mr. B-mb-r G-sc---ne headed the dinner troop, which followed him with great precipitation---at the same time departed Sir John Irw-n and Mr. S-lw-n, with his Honour Mr. B-rd-n-ll, of whom great enquiries were made respecting the present arrangements of the Opera.--No were there wanting many titles for the question.

tion.---For his part, he should enter at large into the rise and origin of all Colonies, ancient and modern, into the history of Taxation, and its effects on every state that had exercised it over its colonies; and then review the cause, commencement, and conduct of the whole American war. He felt how arduous, how complicated a task this must prove to himself, and how difficult for the House to understand. That, to lessen that difficulty, both to the House and to himself, he would adopt the most logical method to give clearness and perspicuity to such a multitude and diversity of ideas; and for that purpose, he begged Gentlemen to take notice, that he should divide his speech into four and twenty grand divisions, each of which should contain as many subdivisions, which subdivisions should also be separately discussed in equal number of sections, each section to be split also into the same number of heads; so that with grand divisions, sub-divisions, sections, and heads, the number of distinct propositions would amount to several thousands; but, that Gentlemen, by attending closely, and correctly taking down the number of any particular argument, should instantly have an explicit answer to any query touching that individual number: and he flattered himself this numerical logic and arithmetic of eloquence

quence would greatly tend to clarify their understandings.

To follow this gentlemen thro' even one of his grand divisions, was a task much beyond the utmost rapidity of a short-hand writer. Indeed the noise from all parts of the house was so excessive, during the several hours which he engrossed in this laborious harrangue, that it was totally impossible to catch up any thing beyond the mutilated fragments, and ruins of his oratory. At length however the house sunk into a sudden calm, upon the disclosure of a fact, which seemed to startle even the wildest zealots of faction. — For, after every other argument was exhausted to so little purpose, inflamed by disappointment, and hurried, as we are willing to suppose, by the violence of patriotism, the Honourable Gentleman avowed to the House, that one of his grounds for denouncing ruin to his country was *his private knowledge of Dr. FRANKLYN's sentiments on that head.* * “ Dr Franklyn (he exclaimed) the Cromwell of his age, Dr Franklyn, Ambassador Plenipotentiary from America to France, is my most intimate and most cordial friend! ——— He went on by declaring, he had passed great part of the summer at

* Here Sir GR-Y C—P-R caught at a pen, and began to take notes.

Paris, with Dr Franklyn, in the most unreserved communication of sentiments and facts ; and he concluded with repeating, as the joint result of his own and Dr Franklyn's deliberation, that the glory of England was destroyed for ever !—This extraordinary confession produced however no violent effect. Ministers seemed to receive it with a contemptuous pity, not unmingled with ridicule ; *when Mr W——ks, finding the little success of serious treason, rose, and indulged himself in the more ludicrous stile of it.

Mr. W——ks † adverted with some degree of humour to the inference of victory and triumph which might be deduced from the return of our Generals and our Admirals, and one of our Commissioners too. They

* Probably, from supposing the first origin of their connection to have arisen (at least on the part of Dr. Franklyn) from a philosophical rather than a political curiosity. And certainly, no two projectors in Science were ever more strikingly contrasted : the one, like a modern Prometheus, collecting fire from vapour to inflame the terrestrial mass by its pernicious infusion : the other employing his magic *plates* to freeze its ardour and quench its malignity.—Happy for this country, if these professors had shifted their pursuits ! as the former, could his inclinations have been propitious to the peace of mankind, might then have become a powerfull *Extinguisher*, while the other, however malignant his intentions, must always have been acknowledged an *innocent* Incendiary.

† The Editor was furnished with copies of this speech from the Printers of the respective News Papers, many weeks ago.

found

found (he said) that being on the spot interrupted their manœuvres, and he supposed they were come three thousand miles off to act *cooly*. That, the object they were sent to accomplish was confessedly a great one; and it is well known, that objects of a certain magnitude are best contemplated at a distance. Probably their optics were too tender to distinguish with accuracy amidst the smoak and confusion incident to actual engagements; or perhaps, they reflected on the more imminent dangers of domestic invasion, and hastened home from pure patriotism to guard their native country. — At any rate, he must compliment their discernment in pursuing a line of conduct, which could not fail of conciliating the good opinion and sympathetic regard of the Noble Lord, who presided in the American department. “ If therefore, Mr Speaker, by any miraculous change, I were, this day, to become the Advocate of Administration, I should mark the inutility of recurring to the written evidence, which the Amendment calls for, at a moment when we are so copiously provided with *viva voce* testimony. Yet, Sir, I do not think, upon reflection, that Ministers will adopt this ground for rejecting the Noble Lord’s Amendment. They, Sir, will more boldly tell you—you shall have neither,—for, in these times, it is the fashion for all
modern.

modern Statesmen, first to tell their own story, and then protest solemnly against being cross-examined---or *directly, or indirectly, answering question, query, or otherwise*. I believe I am accurate in my quotation.---I am not indeed surprised at these declarations of obstinate silence---this is Scottish policy --- the example was set by my good old friend, the E-rl of B-te---for therein I am orthodox in my faith, that the Son is equal to the Father: and I am sure I may add with Athanasian zeal, the Father is incomprehensible, and the Son is incomprehensible, yet there are not two incomprehensibles, but one incomprehensible.

(Here a confused cry of order, and the Chaplain reprimanded for laughing.)

There is indeed one North Briton of whom I entertain a better hope.---He seems to have caught that itch for liberty, which, to our great wonder broke out in the Highlands last summer. He, Sir, even in the character of his M——y's Commissi-ner, solicited the intimacy of *General Washington*. But indeed, Sir, if ever a Scotchman can be suspected of loving liberty, it is not when he has recently become a convert to Administration: *Washington* therefore sent his Excellency, the worthy Commissioner, a flat refusal.---Mr. *Laurens* too refused his Excellency the hearing he so generously solicited by implor-
ing

ing Congress, "*not to follow the example of Br--t--n in the hour of her inslence;*" the *bearing* was however refused, nay even the "*fight of the country,*" and "*the fight of its worthy patriots*" was peremptorily refused. The Americans, Sir, think that a Scotchman has neither eyes nor ears for liberty, or, at least, they distrusted the capacity of his Excellency's organs for such an object.—I have a letter, Sir, in my pocket from my honest friend Ethan Allen; I would read it, but I am sure you won't let me; He knows I am fond of scripture quotations, and tells me Congress would have given your Scotch commissioner this *bearing*, but they knew "he was like unto the deaf adder, who regardeth not the voice of the charmer."

Let me then trouble his Excellency with one question; who was it suggested this secret correspondence with the enemy? was it not the Scottish secretary of this wise commission, Dr. Adam Ferguson? It must have been one of Sir John Dalrymple's associates in literature. The Scotch, if they can get no Englishman to act, as they pretend to say the great Sidney did, will make even their own countrymen treacherous in one age, to furnish some literary assassin of the next with the foul vouchers of treachery and baseness. At all events, Sir, I shall heartily give my vote for the amendment,

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as the only means to convict the M-n-stry of what I know they are guilty, weakness, incapacity, ignorance, obstinacy, baseness, and treachery.

Governor
J-hn-f-n.

Governor Johnson * now rose, and said every thing that a Gentleman in his melancholy situation could be supposed to urge. Spoke much of the want of candour in putting a false construction on his actions, which he could assure the House, upon his honour were all dictated by the best intentions; that he should not undertake to enter into a full defence of his conduct at present, as it was a very delicate business, and turned upon a very nice chain of circumstances. One part of the charges against him he would slightly touch upon, his letters, and what he supposed was meant to be hinted at, his attempts of bribery. That the artful policy of France had made it necessary for him to parry her attacks by similar weapons; that he believed it was felt and would be admitted by all parts of that House, that there is no greater spring of public action, in all political assemblies, than *self-interest*. That he felt himself justified in his own mind for every step he had taken, for he would venture to affirm, that

* Gentlemen were here desired by the Sp—k-r to take their seats, and the Serjeant to clear the bar—places! places! was repeated with great vehemence.

in every negotiation true wisdom and sound policy justified the moral fitness of secret articles, and the honourable expediency of powerful temptations. As to the failure of success, on the part of the commissioners, various causes had concurred to occasion it. They were sent to treat of peace with a retreating army. Philadelphia, the chief residence of the moderate men, and most friendly to their negotiation, was evacuated by the army, on the Commissioners arrival. A little after they had got to New-York, Mons. D'Estaing was upon the coast. These circumstances gave spirits to a declining cause; and America, *in this hour of her insolence*, refused to treat, unless her independence was specifically acknowledged.

“What followed afterwards is a very serious business, indeed; but I trust I shall be pardoned by a noble Lord opposite to me, high in character, and in the esteem of his country, if I freely say, as my opinion, that Monsieur D'Estaing's fleet ought to have been attacked by the British at Rhode-Island, as soon as the French came out of the harbour to fight them. And I will further say, considering the spirit, the gallantry, and the heroism of the British Seamen, the inequality of the force of the fleets was not sufficient to justify the not attacking the French fleet, without waiting a length of

time to gain the weather guage, and trusting so long as the English fleet did there to an unruly element. Sir, in the actions in the West-Indies, between the English and French fleets, last war, where the former were greatly inferior both in number and weight of metal, the French were beat off and obliged to fly for it. So, in the case of the Monmouth, the Dorsetshire, and several other instances, inferiority in the outset of the contest proved victorious in the end. I will not, however, dwell upon matters which merely depend upon opinion, and upon which the best officer in the world may be mistaken. But, Sir, after the tempest at Rhode-Island, when the Noble Lord returned to New-York to refit, was not time lost? the very time that might have been employed in separating D'Estaing from Boston harbour? I might say, Sir, in the defeat of D'Estaing; for after the arrival of some of B-r-n's squadron, the Noble Lord was superior to him.—It is a very unpleasing task to speak out, but I cannot avoid giving my opinion as a seaman, and as one upon the spot, acquainted with the delays in this business.

Upon the whole, Sir, my opinion, in a very few words is this: The violent and impolitic measures of the M-n-stry of this country first lost America—the Br-t-sh
army

army might have regained it—and our fleet has lost more than one opportunity of crushing that of France, upon which American resistance chiefly depended for protection and support,

Lord Howe and *Mr. Rigby* now rose; Lord
H-we. but the house appearing inclined to give the former an immediate opportunity to reply, *Mr. R-gby* sat down, and *Lord H-we*, in very modest yet pointed terms, remarked on the unfairness which, he must say, the Honourable Gentleman who spoke last, had discovered both in the design and manner of his speech. That, first, to avoid entering into the motives and principles of his own conduct, as being more proper objects for a particular committee of enquiry, and then to launch out into vague and desultory accusations of any other person, was inconsistent, and, he was sorry to add, illiberal. That whatever prejudices those reflections were intended to create against his conduct, he would not then interrupt the business of the day, and the more general subjects of the present debate, but trust to the candour of the house for suspending their opinion, until the whole of his conduct might be minutely investigated by a committee appointed for that purpose; which committee, he himself should be the first man in that house to solicit, nay demand.

Mr.

Mr. R-gby. *Mr. Rigby.*—I should not, Sir, have troubled the house on this first day, but that I felt it the indispensable duty of private friendship, to express my feelings on the happy return of our worthy Commissioner, who has given you, Sir, so full and satisfactory an account both of his principles and conduct—I shall not trouble you long, Sir; I rise only for that purpose.—I am sure there is no Gentleman in this house, who more heartily congratulates the worthy Commissioner on his unembarrassed countenance and his good looks. He certainly has passed the summer very profitably—the voyage seems to have improved his stock of spirits—I think, I never saw him appear to more advantage—I own, however, I sincerely regret the unpoliteness of his American friends. After such condescending invitations of himself, it was not very civil of those Gentlemen to send excuses—If he had been admitted to their society, I have no manner of doubt of the wonderful effects his eloquence would have wrought. Even if they had allowed him a sight of the country, a man of his taste would have brought us home some curious American memoirs; but, alas! he was not only disappointed in that wish, but in one of a still gentler kind. I mean, Sir, a *Flirtation Treaty*, which he *attempted* to negotiate with a celebrated female

male politician, the *Messalina of Congress*. I say attempted, Sir; for, unfortunately even there too his Excellency met with as cold a reception. Unfortunately! for, had the Lady indulged him with a *hearing*, or even a *sight*, what surer line to lay the foundation of a more lasting connection? But, in short, Sir, whether from fate or insufficiency, the affair dropt, and the *Flirtation Treaty* fell to the ground ——— Sir, I trouble the house very seldom, and with as few words as possible——my opinion continues to be what it invariably has been, with respect to America——this country may be deprived of its interests, its dignity, and its honour; but as I never can give my assent to a voluntary surrender of them, I most heartily agree in the support which the address proposes to afford to his M——y.

Mr. T. Townsend rose, and with great vehemence arraigned the levity of the Right Honourable Gentleman who spoke before him; he thought it highly indecent, at this important crisis, when the very existence of this country is at stake, that any Gentleman should endeavour to raise a laugh, and turn the momentous deliberations of that day into ridicule. Under such circumstances, in his opinion, jocularities were flagitious, and wit became blasphemy. He had, himself, sat in three P—rl—m—nts, and he appealed to the candour

Mr. T.
T-wnf-nd

candour of that house, whether in that length of time he had once raised a laugh, or on any occasion intentionally distorted the muscles of any Honourable Member? "No Sir, the true design of our meeting here, is for far other purposes than those of calling for the risibility of Honourable Gentlemen: a risibility at any time highly improper for this house, but particularly so at this tremendous, this disgraceful moment.—It is with the highest astonishment that I now see Gentlemen shifting their places, as if already tired of public business, or afraid to look into the deplorable and calamitous situation of this country; nay, so great is their inattention to their duty in P—rl—m—nt, that, upon my rising, I find the house almost cleared—where are the Members?—I am afraid—at dinner! Is this a time for revelling in taverns, when the dignity of the Imperial Crown of this country is violated, and much harm done to our merchants?—Is this a time for revelling, when the glory of Britannia, Sir, I say, is sullied, and when Sir, the French are riding on your narrow seas."——He then entered into a copious detail of the blunders of Administration, with respect to Falkland's Islands, the Middlesex Election, Corsica, and the massacre in St. George's Fields, Gibraltar, and Mr. Horne's imprisonment; together with cur-
fory

sory observations on the illegality of impressing, the bad policy of Lotteries, the fatal example of the Justitia, and the tremendous perils to this devoted country from the frequent exhibition of the Beggar's Opera.—At length, returning a little closer to the question, he again animadverted on the surprising inattention of the House: Yet Sir, (he exclaimed) before I sit down, let me ask Ministers a few questions—I do not expect any answer, to them, yet I will ask them—Is Dominica the only one of our West India Islands now in the possession of France? Are we to go on for ever with the American war;—Who are our allies?—Is Omiah to pay us another visit?—Where is Sir Harry Clinton?—How is the Czarina effected?—What will D'Estaing do after Christmas?—Where will the Brest fleet be next summer?—If Ministers will not, and I know they dare not, answer these questions, then Sir, how, in God's name, can they refuse the papers called for by the noble Lord's Amendment? From those papers, I pledge myself to the house, the whole of these nefarious proceedings will be brought to light—discouraged, as I well might be, from again pledging my person, (having been the constant and unredeemed pledge of this House, for one thing or another, for these one and twenty

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years last past,) I repeat it, Sir, I will pledge the reversion of myself, that these papers will furnish us with all necessary and constitutional information.—And, for these reasons, Sir, the Amendment meets with my most hearty concurrence.

Mr. *V-n-r*. Mr. *V-n-r* professed himself to be one of the independant Country Gentlemen, and took occasion to inform the house, that five Indiamen arrived in the River Thames about six weeks ago.—He said he embraced this earliest opportunity to repeat his offer of fifteen shillings in the pound, if Ministers would but seriously go on with the war, which, for his part, he now considered in a new point of view—for, as a great statesman had once boasted to have conquered, in his time, America in Germany, so he would hope and believe, that we, in our days, might conquer France in America.—And here, from regretting the loss of that great statesman, he fell into a train of melancholy thoughts, which led him insensibly to a pathetic eulogy on the memory of his dear departed friend, the well-known Mr. *Van*.—“ A long course of congenial studies (he exclaimed, with torrents of tears and frequent sobs) had entwined our hearts in political sympathy—we had but one idea between us!—Yes, Sir, I repeat it, but one—Well therefore may I say with the Poet,

In

In infancy our hopes and fears
 Were to each other known,
 And friendship in our riper years,
 Had twined our hearts in one."

Here he broke off, oppressed with a flood of tears, while a confused noise of *encore* and *order* resounded from several parts of the house. At length, when the uproar began to subside, and Gentlemen became collected enough to proceed on business,

Hon. T. L~~itt~~^{on} rose, and with great ^{Hon. T.} solemnity, addressed himself to the chair in ^{Litt} the following words:—"Notwithstanding the general silence, which, I find, it is the fashion for Ministers of this day not only to hold themselves, but likewise to encourage in others, on the important subject of maritime affairs, I cannot, Sir, acquiesce in so culpable a silence, nor content myself with sitting still, until the close of the debate, to be numbered with the tacit votes in its disfavour. Sir, the Navy, I have ever considered not only as the true and constitutional safe-guard of this insular territory, but as the very spirit and soul of all traffic, the quintessence of merchandize, and indeed, I may say, the palladium of commerce. With this view, Sir, my studies have ever tended to the investigation of the origin of that stupendous piece of mechanism, a ship. —Noah, Sir, was, in my opinion, the

first circumnavigator—(I beg to be understood, I mean no reflection on the memory of Sir Francis Drake)—he was therefore, Sir, justly entitled to the highest situation in the naval department of that early period—take him for all in all, we shall not look upon his like again—though, in truth, there are traits in his character not totally dissimilar to some leading features of the noble Earl who is now at the head of that department—But it is not for me to draw the parallel.
 Sir, The Phœnicians

It was a custom also among the Chaldeans and the Nazareens

Recollect,

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Recollect, Sir, when news was brought
to the Persians

So the Macedonians

In like manner the Lacedemonians, and
the Athenians

Thus

Thus too the Carthagenians

Here let me call your attention to the
Romans and Syracusians

Need I remind you of the northern hive,
or trouble you with the Goths and Vandals?

So too, Sir, the Chinese

At length, Mr. ~~Spea~~-er, the Danes,
Dutch, Swedes, Venetians, Napolitans,
Spaniards, French, Portugese, Muscovites,
Turks, Saracens, and others, that I skip
over to avoid tediousness

And to bring it home to our feelings,
the ancient Britons, hardy Welch, Miles-
ians, wild Irish, Saxons, Picts, Normans,
and English, rush upon our minds, and

From

From this historical deduction, I cannot but think, Sir, navigation highly necessary, highly favourable to liberty.

If, Sir, I wanted any additional reason for opposing the address, it would best arise from the shameful neglect and inattention to those brave and humane French officers, (particularly the Captain of the *Licorne*,) lately on their parole at Alresford, half of whom, indeed, ministry have cruelly suffered to run away. Besides, Sir, let us advert to the wretched deficiency in our late naval equipments.——I have it, Sir, from undoubted authority, that the several ships crews laboured under a total deprivation of Tobacco. Tobacco! that staple commodity of our once flourishing subjects, now, alas, our avowed enemies, in Virginia, and the Southern colonies.—Sir, not only the quota of Gin was miserably retrenched, but adultery, so congenial to the *Noah* of this day, pervaded every keg in the Royal Navy.—Sir, I myself know it for a fact, that the speaking trumpet of the Albion was sent out in so wretched a condition, that,

that, in haling a fishing-boat, (I believe a cod-smack) off Scilly, the second mate cracked his pipe, and half the crew have been hoarse ever since--some of your ships, Sir, wanted their complement of Chaplains:--and in others, I will not say that I know there were not surgeons, but I will say, I do *not* know that there were. Sir, more fatal consequences have arisen from a strange neglect of vegetables--Potatoes, radically rotten!--Carrots, diabolically dry!--Turnips, totally tough!--Parsnips, pitifully putrid!-----Scurvy Sir, Scurvy, like the angry Dæmon of Pestilence, has lighted up everlasting bon-fires in the blotched brows and cicatracious cheeks of your scarified seamen; so that every crew has flashed contagion, and reeked like a floating Pest-house, with the baneful exhalations of disease.--And now, Sir, that I'm on my legs, a word or two to trowzers--Such is the pitiful œconomy of Administration, such the paltry treachery of Contractors, that, what from an original coarseness of yarn, what, from the more pernicious and slovenly texture of the workmanship, not a trowzer but gaped with lacerations, whose expanded apertures discovered what-----the P-rl--m-nt-ry decorum of this house, forbids me to reveal.

Spurred on by such powerful incentives, I take this earliest occasion to give notice to

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the house, that I shall move, on this day fortnight, for the house to resolve itself into a Committee, in order to take into consideration the several weighty grievances, the outline of which I have just now had the honour to give you a rude sketch.--When, I shall also move you, Sir, that the several Malsters, Distillers of Gin, Venders of Tobacco, Traders in Trowzers, Retailers of Rum, Picklers of Pork, and Purveyors of Potatoes, together with their several servants, followers, apprentices and retainers, be ordered to attend this house *de die in diem*, to answer all such questions and matters touching the said enquiry, as shall be put to them by the Committee so to be appointed.---In the mean time, Sir, I shall give my hearty concurrence to the noble Lords Amendment, as promising to afford some degree of preliminary information, which may tend to illustrate the more important matter in the Enquiry which I have now proposed to set on foot.

Mr. P--nt--n, in reply, begged pardon
 E--nt--n. for troubling the house, but hoped they would indulge him in a few words, as he felt himself particularly called on to answer some reflections which the Honourable Gentleman, who had spoke last, had thought proper to throw out against that board where he had the honour to sit.---He said, that, at the time of the fitting out of Mr. K--pp--l's fleet

fleet, he had made it his business to be very much at Portsmouth, where, though it was a task exceedingly repugnant to his private feelings and taste, he had, however, considered it as an official service incumbent on one in his department, to personally experiment the several provisions and stores prepared for that equipment. That, impelled by such motives, he had, on several occasions, drank the small and strong beer, not unfrequently tasted the gin, and sometimes smoak'd, nay chewed the tobacco; that, in his humble opinion, they were all super-excellent in their several kinds. And, as to the imputed delinquency relative to potatoes, he could assure the house, he had bought up several tuns of the same species, for the consumption of his own family---nay, he would go further, he would venture to acquaint that house, that with some of those very identical potatoes, he had lately had the happiness and honour to regale a certain Great Personage, then his guest; a personage indeed of too high a rank to have his name even alluded to, though on so weighty, and so important a business.

Mr. Burke. I must confess, Sir, notwithstanding my long and melancholy experience of the present administration, I cannot hear, without astonishment, the language held forth by the speech, and echoed in this day's debate. This session, Sir, at a

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period big with horror, pregnant with ruin to this country, is ushered in with the song of triumph ; and parliament are bid to rejoice at a time when nothing but the language of despair is to be heard throughout the nation. Surely, Sir, the hour is at last arrived, when humility and moderation ought to take place of pride and confidence ; when, instead of launching further into a sea of troubles, we might be content to try what little can be saved from the wreck of national honour and prosperity. Ministers might at length condescend to tell us, what means are left to avert the gathering ruin ; how we are to tread back the mazes of error and folly, through which we have been led ; and where are the resources from which one gleam of hope might dawn upon us ; in the hour of danger and despair---But, deaf to the solemn call of occasion and necessity, they rejoice in the absence of thought, in the contempt of foresight. Like the wretch who seeks in stupefaction a momentary relief from sorrow, they sink from a voluntary intoxication into a torpid insensibility. The illusion, indeed, is not to be confined within the narrow limits of their own minds ; its baneful influence must be circulated through every corner of the nation ; and, by a shameful perversion, that anxiety for the public welfare, which, in

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times like these, is, in my opinion, the highest of public virtues, must be amused with the pageantry of domestic warfare, or lulled by the opiate of our American Gazettes. I own, Sir, even on principles of criticism, I cannot but consider the stile of these Ministerial annals, as no very favourable criterion of the present times. In happier days, their characteristic was plain conciseness. Victories were then too rapid, too numerous, to admit of a dilated relation.—Success is seldom tedious: but, I am afraid, our highest achievements have amounted to no more than the inroads of savages, or the depredations of pirates.--Upon my word, Sir, though we may censure our Officers, our Ministers at least shew some generalship; if they cannot deceive the enemy, they are prompt enough to mislead their countrymen; though they discover but little skill in the arrangement of armies, they have an admirable talent in marshalling Gazettes. They have given celebrity to sheep-stealing, and blazoned, in all the pompous prolixity of ostentatious phraseology, the important depredations at—*Martha's Island*.—Certainly, Sir, the gallant Commander of that expedition may vie in pastoral achievements with Ajax, with Jason, or at least Don Quixote; and, if he does not obtain a triumph, he is clearly entitled to an *ovation*.

Not,

Not, Sir, that I mean to cast any reflection on those Officers and Soldiers to whose lot these ridiculous services have fallen--they, no doubt, have effected every thing that the bravery of the British troops in such a situation could accomplish ; but the hand of Nature, Sir, has thrown in their way obstacles which it was not in the most obstinate valour, in the most consummate wisdom to surmount. It is a want of confidence in the directors of this war that has chilled every vein, and slackened every sinew of military enterprize. Besides, Sir, if I may be permitted to indulge a little superstition, there is a certain fatality attending the measures of Administration : through all their bungling operations of war, through all their wretched plans of peace, the evil Genius, Sir, of this country, seems to haunt their footsteps. He it is that has suffered them to wander on, undismayed by danger, unabashed by reproaches, from one absurdity to another, 'till our blunders and our follies have at length reared that stupenduous fabric of American Empire that now engrosses the attention, and claims the wonder of mankind. Allow me, Sir, to pause for a moment, while I contemplate this phænomenon of modern ages, this new constellation in the western hemisphere ; a mighty and extensive empire, not rising by slow degrees and from small beginnings,

nings, but bursting forth at once into full vigour and maturity; not cherished in the soft lap of peace and commerce, but shaking off in its outset the long established dominion of a powerful master, and thriving in the midst of carnage and desolation. “Ab ipso ducit opes animumq. bello.” If we view them in another light, as completely enthroned in sovereignty, as receiving embassies from distant potentates, as forming leagues with the princes and states of Europe, we shall find more abundant matter for self-humiliation—I could wish to shut my eyes on the scene that follows: The parent baffled and depressed, imploring pardon of her injured and alienated children, yielding to their successful resistance, what she had denied to their prayers and petitions, and offering every concession short of a total emancipation; but scorned and rejected in her turn, not (as she had rejected them) with rudeness and insolence, but with firmness and with dignity; and convinced, at length, that the day of conciliation is past, and that the groundwork of peace can only be laid on the broad basis of equality and independance.

Is this the unconditional submission the noble Lord in the American department so prodigally announced? This is indeed unconditional submission, but unconditional submission from Great Britain to America.

Gentlemen

Gentlemen may remember how often my voice has preached peace within these walls ; how often it has warned administration to healing measures, while the wounds of America might yet have been closed. I will still repeat it, 'till the echo of this house shall be conscious of no other sound ; Peace, Peace, Peace, is still my object.

It is now high time, Sir, that Gentlemen should awaken to a sense of our danger, that Parliament should discard those wretched schemes of short-sighted policy, which cannot, in our present situation, afford even a temporary refuge. As yet, we experience only the beginnings of our sorrows ; but the storms of adversity are gathering fast around us, and the vessel is still trusted to the direction of Pilots, whose ignorance and obstinacy has been manifest to all the world.

——What thanks, Sir, to the vigilance of our Rulers, that we are not already sunk beyond the possibility of redemption ? What thanks to them, that the flower of our army and navy, and with them all the hopes of Britain had not withered before the power of a lately dejected but now triumphant enemy ? Is it owing to their care that the rich produce of the Western Isles has not flowed into every harbour of France ?

No, Sir, it is the hand of Providence that wards off for a while the ruin of this declining

ning empire. It is Providence alone that has preserved our gallant Admirals in America, by an almost miraculous interposition. — It is due to Providence alone, that the heart-strings of our commerce are not cut asunder by the sword of our adversaries.

I own, Sir, I cannot join in an implicit approbation of such ministers: I must be a little better acquainted with their merits before I can place an unlimited confidence in their wisdom and discretion; that discretion which has led us into a labyrinth of difficulties; that wisdom that cannot find a clue for our deliverance.

Mr *Dannig* said a few words, which, from the learned gentleman being particularly hoarse, owing (as has been suggested) to a violent cold, and a multiplicity of business in Westminster-hall, we could not collect with the accuracy that we wish to observe on every occasion. His language was neat and pointed, though somewhat tinctured with professional pedantry: his arguments seemed ingenious, though perhaps too refined for the comprehension of his auditors. He had much antithesis, much verbal jingle, and many whimsical climaxes. He talked of

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the competency or incompetency of the House to the discussion of the present question ; of the materiality or immateriality of the proposed amendment ; of the responsibility or irresponsibility of Ministers. He said, he neither asked, nor knew, nor cared to what the present question might ultimately tend ; but of this he was confident, that it's propriety was clearly evinced, and it's necessity irrefragably proved by that very opposition which purported to baffle it.--Upon the whole, his harrangue seemed to be a medley of legal quibble and quaint humour.

Mr. S-e-l-l-c-t-r-G-n-r-a-l, CONTRA, began
 3-1 G--1. with *declaring*, that when he *tuk* his present office, he *understud* it to be a *General Retainer*, to *shew cause* in behalf of Administration: That, therefore, he hoped to be favoured with a few words by way of *replication* to his learned friend: That he might in this case have insisted on *want of notice*, but, for the sake of candour in practice, he would waive that objection ; for, that he had no doubt, on the merits, but that *judgment wud be given* in his favour: *Protelting*, that the speech was *warranted* by *precedent*, and had *the highest authority* in it's support: *Protest-ing* alio, that no *gud* objection *cud* be made to the address, as it strictly pursued the very words of the speech. He *justified*, under
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an immemorial custom, that Administration have been accustomed to have, and still of right ought to have, certain echoes in this House, called Addresles. -- He admitted, that true it was, there had been some errors in our proceedings with respect to America; but he was informed, and believed, that Sir Henry Clinton intended to have a new trial. As to the cause of Great Britain versus France, he had been given to understand and be informed, that the place in which the trespass was supposed to have been committed, was, PARCEL of the Island of Dominica, in parts beyond the seas; which place said French, with force of arms, to wit, with ships of divers guns, drums, trumpets, bayonets, hand grenades, and cartridge boxes, had broken and entered, doing nevertheless as little damage on that occasion as they possibly cud: but that he was clearly of opinion, that if the troops of said France shud traverse the Channel, and lay a Venue in Kent or Suffex, issue might be joined by the militia at Cox-Heath; and, in that case, afterwairds, if verdict shud be given in our favour, the adverse party would sustain heavy and exemplary damages. — He concluded with averring, that he approved of the address in it's present form; and that he shud demur to the amendment moved by the Noble Lud

as multifarious. uncertain, insufficient, and informal.

Mr. F-x. Mr Fox now rose; and, with that extent of information, refined perspicuity, and vehemence of eloquence, by which he so invariably commands the attention and admiration of the House, entered at large into the subject of debate.

To do justice to the force of his reasoning, or elegance of his stile, is totally beyond the utmost efforts of the editor. — All that he can attempt is, to give an imperfect sketch of an inimitable original. — He began with lamenting the accomplishment of that ruin, which, from time to time, he had too justly predicted. He confessed, that little merit could be ascribed to those prophecies; which, however chimerical and visionary ministers had affected to consider them, were, in fact, no more than plain deductions of what must necessarily ensue from their own measures. He proceeded to recapitulate the conduct of Administration since the prorogation of Parliament; particularly observing on the impolitic removal of the troops from Philadelphia at the moment, when, if ever, their continuance *there* might have effected some good purpose. The concealment of that intended evacuation, even from the Commissioners themselves, was a part (he said) of that system

system of duplicity and deception which pervaded the whole of ministerial conduct. Possibly, indeed, Ministers were aware, that gentlemen of high character and esteem would not have become the executive tools of a plan so wretchedly concerted. The Commissioners therefore were not suffered to participate in counsels, which, if they had known, they must have despised. Nor was folly more conspicuous in the origin than in the prosecution of this paltry disingenuous plan. Sir Henry Clinton, to whose courage and conduct every praise is due, was ordered to return to New-York. Encumbered with baggage, and pursued by an army superior in numbers, he made his way thro' the almost impervious forests of that country; and, by a miraculous effort, not only secured his retreat, but in the Jerseys had the good fortune to resist the enemy with some success — a success however, which, without disparaging the British troops, must in great part be attributed to General Lee; who, in consequence of his misconduct in that affair, was immediately put in arrest, and afterwards suspended for the space of a year.

He went on with ridiculing the circumstance of a fleet of Victuallers having been sent to Philadelphia, after the army, which was to be supplied by that fleet, had been
ordered

ordered to evacuate Philadelphia. — That fleet, he said, had narrowly escaped being taken in the Delaware; and, thence, he argued Ministers were as culpable, as if, in consequence of the capture of that fleet, the army, then arrived at New-York, had famished for want of those provisions, on which their future subsistence was wholly dependant.

He said, he was yet to learn what plan Administration could pretend to alledge they had followed, or meant to follow, in America. Upon what grounds could they attempt to prosecute an *offensive* war? Or, taking the alternative, how can they presume to say they have acted on the *defensive*? -----As to the first, they have thirty thousand men to conquer the continent of America: admitting then the superiority of their army and their navy, still he contended that superiority had been, and ever must be ineffectual and useless; because, as long as the English army and navy co-operate, the Americans will never have the unnecessary temerity to give up the advantage of situation, or expose their cause to the hazard of one decisive engagement. The last campaign was the clearest proof of that position; and, now, though our fleet was superior to the French, yet D'Estaing is safe at Boston.---. It was, on that principle, he doubted not-
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the gallant and experienced Commanders of the last campaign had formed their conduct: It was their policy, and, in his opinion, the best policy, to keep a collected force, and to avoid any inferior exertions, that might require a separation, or weaken that superiority, which, in case of a decisive action, they rightly judged could alone have been fatal to American resistance.---It remained for General Clinton to pursue a contrary policy.---Yet, though (he declared) no man in that house entertained a higher respect for the personal and professional merit of that able Commander, (who from his particular talent for military enterprise, and his education under the Prince of Brunswick, was best calculated for effecting such a plan) yet, from the minutest investigation of the late Gazettes, he could not collect any very auspicious presage of his military career. If indeed, from his observation, of what had already happened, he might hazard an opinion of what may happen, we had no reason to rejoice at the revival of that plan of separation, which had proved so fatal in the Northern expedition. He was sorry he had mentioned that expedition---It led him to a subject he wished to avoid.---He had been accused of an asperity of reflexion on the conduct of the noble Lord who planned that expedition; he would strive, in future,

ture, to overcome his indignation, by indulging his contempt for the Adviser of it. ---Yet, thus much he would say; though unhappy for this country, it was happy for our troops, happy for our officers, to be directed and controlled by a Minister, to whose wisdom not even Envy could ascribe one particle of their success, in whose imbecillity even Justice would afford them an asylum from every disgrace.

Having thus stated the impracticability of an offensive war in America, either on the former plan of united force, or on the present of separate efforts, he recurred to the other part of his argument, whether Administration could pretend to alledge their having adopted the alternative, and formed even a defensive plan for America and the West-Indies?—If they dared to assume that merit, how could they expect the House to attend, with any degree of patience, to such a mockery of all truth? On any rational plan of mere defence, would they not have left a force at New-York, Rhode-Island, and Hallifax, fully able to prevent any attack in that quarter; at the same time, detaching a sufficient force to protect the West-India Islands?—Upon such a plan, would not any spirited Minister have grafted some degree of activity and enterprise? Would He not have attacked Martinique, Guadeloupe,

loupe, or St. Domingo? Such conduct would have struck terror to France, we should have been enriched by new acquisitions, or, at least, have prevented the disgrace of our own losses.

But, admitting that this defensive plan may have been but recently adopted, how are Administration to regain the time they have lost, or what resources of finance are still unexhausted to prosecute even this plan? Are all the Country Gentlemen equally disposed to devote fifteen shillings in the pound to carry on this defensive war? Are they all equally delighted with the great and growing ruin of an accumulating debt and a decreasing revenue? Or do they rest their hopes on the wealth of our East-India trade? Do they know that, there too, the French are undermining the foundation of our commerce? Or is it studiously concealed from them, that the French ministry have sent Monsieur Vaugelin to Canton, in the quality of their Consul at the Chinese Court? — He had heard much of a sudden increase of national wealth by our late captures, but, at best, the prizes of privateers are a partial benefit; they can enrich but a few individuals; they afford no diminution of the general burthens of a whole people. In the present instance, the truth was these boasted prizes were, in fact, public losses;

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the French having had the art to insure their most valuable ships, particularly the Indiamen, by English policies --- besides, that several of the richest captures were actually freighted with consignments to English merchants.

But, supposing this extraordinary spirit of bounty should become general among the Country Gentlemen, and that, to support a war which had totally lost the original object of revenue, for which they had been tempted to engage in it; supposing they were all well inclined to a land-tax of fifteen shillings in the pound, and determined to overflow the Exchequer with an extraordinary redundancy of profusion, yet would they be particularly happy that all that wealth should be portioned out to subsidise Hanover, Hesse-Cassel, Hanau, Waldeck, Brandebourg-Anspach, and all the mercenaries of Germany? Or that it should wholly be devoted to satiate the monopolising avarice of a Russian alliance? You have no force at home -- you are almost defenceless." —

Col. T-ff-n-ll. (Here he was called to order by Colonel T-ff-n-ll for speaking of the *defenceless* state of this country.) Col. T-ff-n-ll said, the word *defenceless* was, to the last degree, improper and disorderly; for that he himself had the command at Dover Castle, opposite Calais, where, though the country all about it

it was rather flat, he would not wish such a word as *defenceless* to be sent from that house to Paris, by any friend of Dr. Franklin's. And, as he was on his legs, he must say, that word *defenceless* was doubly wrong, from the late state of the camps; where, in spite of French spies, there had been the utmost discipline, unanimity, peace, and quietness; except, indeed, some desertions, much nakedness, frequent floggings, and several duels.

Mr. F-x then proceeded, without any remark on this interruption; and, observed, that every petty Landgrave and Margrave had already been exhausted; they had no more Chasseurs, no more mercenary boors, to fight, or rather not to fight, our battles. Russia is frozen up for some months; and, not improbably, the courts of Berlin and Vienna would sufficiently engage her in their Bavarian contest; or, at least, not make it adviseable for her to lessen the internal defence of a country surrounded with such powerful armies. As to the Fleet, how could it be recruited with sailors or marines? Though even the spirit of adventure could instantly man every Privateer that had been fitted out, yet the noble Lord at the head of the Admiralty had pretended to palliate his own incapacity and criminal neglect, by alledging it was almost impossible, even

with an extraordinary bounty, and the utmost rigour of an Impress and an Embargo, to man the Royal Fleet--the fact was, the minds of the people were obstinately bent against this American war; nay, even against a French war, when France became the protector of America.

With such Ministers, such principles, such plans, such internal resources, such prospects of alliance; Gentlemen were now called on to echo the Speech, to panegyrize an Administration too despicable for satire, to plunge this devoted country in aggravated ruin, and, with a remorseless despair, to *desolate* what they had found impossible to *subdue*.

Lord
North.

Lord North. * Mr. Speaker, at the same time that I agree with many Gentlemen who have spoken in the course of this day's debate, that the present is a very serious moment of deliberation, I can by no means join with them in thinking our situation is desperate, though, I confess, it is distressing.

* As the Noble Lord was almost the only Speaker on the side of Administration, the Editor felt it the duty of impartiality, after giving so many excellent speeches on the opposite side, to collect this with particular accuracy, which he was the better enabled to do, from the deliberate manner of its being delivered, and the respectful attention with which it was received.

Sir,

Sir, in all cases of distress or difficulty there is some relief to be found in comparison. Gentlemen who hear me, will admit that this country, in former wars, has been acquainted with unfortunate events. The loss of some of our possessions, and the failure of enterprizes, marked the onset of last war. Commanders were unsuccessful, perhaps criminal;—I do not mean to draw a complete analogy between that period and the present—I only mean to observe, that there has been no difficulty in modern times, from which this Country has not been able to extricate itself, when roused by a sense of its wrongs, and determined to vindicate its justice, its dignity, and its honour.—In saying this, I shall be told by Gentlemen that we were indebted to a great Character in the midst of our misfortunes during the last war, and that, by his vigour and enterprizing genius, this Country was extricated from her embarrassing situation. I will join heartily in paying that tribute of truth to his memory ——— Would to God that such a man were alive at this moment, to step forward with the full exertion of the same zeal, and the same talents. I would yield to none as a second in the work, though I confess my inability to be employed as a first.

Sir, the Honourable Gentleman who spoke last, has gone over such a variety of ground,
and

and has given so large a history of the wickedness of Ministers during the American war, that the asperity with which he has delivered it, would be a sufficient reason for my silence, did I not think it necessary, from a duty I owe to this house and to my country, to give some answers to assertions which have fallen from him.

Sir, * to the first complaint, which the Honourable Gentleman makes, of the Minister's concealment from the Commissioners of the removal of the troops from Philadelphia, I shall only answer, that the importance of that proceeding required the nicest secrecy, and (though I do not mean to suggest the least idea disadvantageous to the confidence of the Commissioners) it is perhaps owing to the secret decision upon that matter, that the removal of the fleet and army from the Delaware was so timely, and so effectually executed. And I will add, that (whatever opinions may have been conceived either by the Commissioners or any other persons) the events, which have since happened, amply justify the wisdom of the measure.—With respect to the bad policy, as some Gentlemen have called it, of opening a negotiation with a retreating army, will any one tell me, that, had your army and navy been blocked up by

* Here Lord North took up Sir Grey Campbell's notes.

Monf.

Monf. D'Estaing's fleet, with the prospect of all of the latter being utterly destroyed in the Delaware, the Congress would have been more inclined to treat with your Commissioners, than when all were safe at New-York?---Were they inclined to negotiate with Lord H-we and Sir William H-we, (who had sufficient powers) at Philadelphia, after the receipt of the bills, and before the arrival of the new Commissioners?-----

No, Sir--no appearances of reconciliation on the part of the Congress were shewn at that time:---their minds, worked up by their leaders to a spirit of enthusiasm, indulged the expectation of destruction to our fleet, at least, from the powers of France.---I am free to confess, Sir, that when I heard Monf. D'Estaing had arrived in America previous to Admiral Byron, (whose fleet had been so unfortunately dispersed) I had little hopes from the temper and inclinations of the Congress, that they would be induced to treat; until some blow had been struck, and that on our part, of a successful nature.---My confidence was, and still is, Sir, in the people there at large--groaning under the worst of all tyrannies, involved in a ruinous, and, I maintain, an unsuccessful war; and driven by their corrupted leaders into a most unnatural connection with France; I say, Sir, if one spark of British sense and honour
yet

yet remains, if one drop of blood of this country still flows in the veins of the Americans, they will avail themselves of our liberality, and return to their former happy and enviable subordination to this country.

With respect to the Fleet of Victuallers, which, the Honourable Gentleman observed, had a narrow escape from the Delaware, it was supposed they had sailed from Corke, some time before the orders were sent from hence for the evacuation of Philadelphia; and it is very lucky they did not sail for New-York; for, if they had, they would have met with Monsieur D'Estaing there.

It has been urged by the Honourable Gentleman, that the American war can be no longer made offensive; and therefore, if a defensive one has been adopted, why not leave a sufficient number of troops for the defence of New-York, Rhode-Island, Halifax, and the Floridas? and strike some blow at the French Settlements in the West-Indies.—Gentlemen will recollect the little time that has elapsed since the evacuation of Philadelphia, the attack and defence of Rhode-Island, and the transactions between Lord Howe's and D'Estaing's Fleet, and they will see how difficult it was to be at a great many places at the same time.—With respect to Dominica, Sir, the loss of it is certainly

certainly a misfortune, but, I trust, only a temporary one. There can be no blame laid upon the Ministers for that event, because, in the very beginning of the war with France, ships were sent sufficient to make at least a superior force to the French in the West-Indies. I am aware of the force of the argument that will be made use of upon this occasion—Gentlemen will say, You have so many places and possessions to guard, that many of them must be vulnerable; and therefore it is impossible to go on in a war with France and America at the same time, with any reasonable expectations of success.—This argument will lead me to enter a little into what I conceive to be our actual situation at home and abroad.---With respect to this country, Sir, it is protected by a fleet superior to the French.--It contains, to the honour of those who have sacrificed domestic ease to public spirit, a very fine army, including the regulars, of 50,000 men.--Your ships of trade and merchandise have arrived safe and unmolested; whilst the Privateers and Letters of Marque have made considerable havoc upon the property of our enemies.—And here I must remark upon two observations which have fallen from the Honourable Gentleman who spoke last.--The first, with respect to the number of sailors who have entered on board these
I ships

ships at a time when there was so much difficulty in manning the fleet, and which is a charge of ignorance in obtaining them upon the Admiralty. -- Sir, the bounty which has been given to seamen by individuals, to enter on board Privateers and Letters of Marque, has been enormous -- I have been told 10 l. -- 15 l. -- and 20 l. a-man. -- This, with the expectation of the larger share of prize-money received by lesser vessels, has been a sufficient inducement to men to enter on board those ships. — Upon the other observation, that the prizes we have taken consist chiefly of British property, and are insured here -- I shall only remark, that the Merchant here who employs French shipping and French navigation, in preference to the British, ought to suffer. -- But, Sir, with respect to insurance, let us see which of the two countries suffers most on that head. -- The insurance upon French ships homeward bound has been very high. -- Upon the French Indiamen, I have heard, so high as 75 l. per cent. -- Then, Sir, this being the case, if the Frenchman arrives safe in France, the Englishman gets 75 l. per cent. -- If he is taken, he loses but 25 l. per cent. whilst his neighbour shares the prize entirely. --- Surely, therefore, Sir, if besides this, we consider that such a difference of Insurance must enable us to greatly undersell the French at all foreign markets, this
country

country has certainly much the best of the bargain.--This, however, Sir, great as these advantages are, is no reason nor no inducement with me for continuing the war. -- I am obliged to recur so often to what has been said, that I beg pardon for deviating from the chief object, at least of my consideration -- that of our actual situation at home and abroad. -- I have already said, Sir, that we are sufficiently defended by our navy and army at home.--We have certainly a greater superiority of both in North America--of ships in the West-Indies--superior in the East-Indies, and shall be more so when the ships now ready to proceed thither, and with troops, are arrived there. -- Sir, there is wealth, I trust there is likewise spirit enough in this country, to support us even in a more embarrassing situation than the present. And, though Gentlemen may have wished to impeach the security of this country, I will fairly tell them, that, such is the confidence, even in the hour of her distress, foreigners of all nations have given, and do give, the preference to our funds;--the falling of which, immediately after the opening of the last budget, is to be imputed entirely to the jobbing of a good purchase at a low bargain, and not to a want of confidence in the nation. I could deduce many reasons to justify me in this opinion; and I could call upon the Dutch, as the best poli-

ticians, in support of it.-- Nor, Sir, will I admit the prospect of ruin to be before us, until I see that the justice of our cause has left us, and that there no longer exists that zeal and bravery which have distinguished the people of Great Britain, as superior to the rest of the world—Sir, a great deal has been said by Gentlemen (who have in my idea gone over, unnecessarily at this time, the whole of the American war) with respect to the conduct of it.—I believe, even the most inveterate enemies Ministers may have, will allow that there was transported to a greater distance, than ever was known before, the finest army; that you fed and maintained it at that distance; and that, from its excellence and its superiority, you had a right to expect the most happy advantages. So far the business, as it concerned Ministry, was well transacted. But, Sir, then comes the question--were the plans and the directions to execute them wise and practicable?—I cannot but say, Sir, for my own part, and, as far as my Judgment went, they were so—I do not mean to suggest any thing invidious towards the Officers to whom commands and responsibility were delegated—I am not one of those who easily condemn, certainly never will, before I have just grounds for doing so—If our Army and Navy have not done in every part of the world what was expected of them--

Par-

Parliament can enquire, can approve, or censure—This however appears to me but a secondary subject for our consideration.

Sir, much has been said with respect to the Union of France and America, and the probability there is that Spain will soon be a party in it. I will not rob many honourable Gentlemen of the gift of prophecy, of what Spain will do in this conjuncture; but, Sir, surely her interest and her policy should be to resist the Independance of America—She will never, by protecting rebellion in our colonies, hold out encouragement to her own to follow their example. It is idle, Sir, to indulge the idea of the Spanish settlements in South America trading with the North Americans, by purchasing, with Spanish Bullion, North American commodities. The Court of Spain is much too wise, I think, to adopt such a measure. What, Sir, might be the consequence? An intercourse and trade between the extremes of that great quarter of the globe might at last be united by a centre, and establish the greatest dominion in the World. For, time may produce daring and flagitious characters in that continent also, whose object it may be to destroy the sovereignty of Spain over her Colonists—Neither can I agree with Gentlemen in thinking, that the union of America and France can be lasting. I might as well
suppose

suppose that different religions, Liberty and slavery, in short, that contrarieties can form a system, as admit that unity and harmony can ever last between France and America—Neither of the countries expect it--The one supports, and the other receives, merely for the temporary purpose of distressing Great Britain—France can have no thoughts of establishing herself in the Heart of America; and America will only avail herself of the assistance of France, until she is at peace with this Country.

In the mean time, however, our exertions must be of a powerful nature to resist this unnatural alliance---And here, Sir, let me return to the consideration of what is proper to be done in consequence of his M——ty's speech.

Sir, in giving my entire approbation to what has been proposed by the Honourable Gentleman in the motion for the Address, I trust I shall be forgiven, if I submit to the House the necessity there is at this time of vigour and firmness in all our proceedings, in order to give a spirit to national exertion. And, whilst we regret that even our unanimity and liberal offers have not been productive of peaceable accommodation with America, I trust that her ingratitude may yet meet with the recompence such a conduct has deserved : in holding out this doctrine,

trine, I mean not to forget that America is still the offspring of Great Britain: that when she returns to her duty, she will be received with open arms, and all her faults be buried in oblivion.

In a word, Sir, the period is arrived, when it is no longer a question who is to be Minister, who are to compose a party, or who have been too blame. Such discussions will not probably obtain conviction on either side--The day is past for reflexions on those who have been alledged to have given confidence to Insurgency, or on those who have been said to have provoked it. The object of your consideration is now—the salvation of your Country.

For myself, Sir, I shall no longer desire to remain in my own situation, than his Majesty, and this House, think I can be useful in it. If any one Man will take it from me, he will relieve me from the most anxious tasks that any Minister probably ever experienced: But, till then, Sir, I look to the support of this house, and to that of all good Men in defending and maintaining the glory and honour of Great Britain.

Col. *Barre* began with recounting his predictions.—I foretold in the out set of the American contest, that your obstinacy would establish the independance of the colonies. My next prophecy was, that France would join them

Col.
Brr-*c*

them—Was I wrong?—I will boldly hazard one prediction more---I say, Spain sooner or later will join both——such are the allies of America.--Who are your's? The Onandagas, the Tuscaroras, and the Choctaws! These are your copper coloured allies, that fix a stain on the name of Britain; and disgrace this country even in victory, as well as defeat--I knew of these alliances, and their barbarities, so early as the 8th of June last. I have a letter from a friend of mine at Ponghkeepsie, of that date;--the Indians, headed by Col. B-tl-r, began their rapine in *Cherry Valley*; parties of *Indians and Tories* (so my friend couples those blood-hounds of desolation) butchered the innocent inhabitants of *Sacandago*, and spread ruin and carnage through *Minisink*--I am sure, Col. B-tl-r, (who is indeed as gallant and amiable an Officer as ever I knew, and I know him well) never would have embrued his hands in innocent blood, but that he knew he must sacrifice his feelings to the speculative, I do not say practical, violence, of the American Secretary. Gen. C-rlt-n lost the Noble Lord's favour by his abhorrence of the tomahawk and the scalping knife:--have not we tried those satanic instruments of death too long? Is the whole of Miss *Macreas* race to be sacrificed? Not one innocent babe left unbutchered to lisp out the tale of
that

that devoted, that unhappy family? Of whom are we now to enquire for any official documents of your war? I see no Secretary of War in this house? Does the American Secretary monopolize and consolidate all warlike business? I hope not.——

Sir, I beg pardon for the heat which I find rising within me--but the inexorable hour of vengeance is not far distant; the heavy load of black and bloody guilt will sink you all.--The time will come when the thunder of the cannon will be heard at your walls. Examples will be made. The Tower and the Block must expiate the crimes of Ministers. The voice of truth will be heard. The Rubicon is passed.—— Sir, what is the comparative state of the revenues of France, and of this country? Mons. Neckar, a very able and a very amiable man, has, I understand, found taxes, and not oppressive ones, for two years;--is that a fact?--The revenue of this country is diminished--it has been gradually so during this detestable war--will Ministers deny it? Good God, Sir, what a state are we in? Dominica lost!--Sir, Monsieur Bonille was once my particular friend--Sir, he is returned to France for fresh powers and orders--look to your West-India settlements, callous as we are, we cannot bear the loss of them.

K

Sir,

Sir, I am astonished at the blind credulity of Ministry--can they be so very simple as to trust to vague compliments against those decisive words of the Pacte de Famille, the Family Compact, "Qui attaque une couronne attaque l'autre;" (I translate for the country Gentlemen) whoever attacks one crown attacks the other.——I know Count Almodovar--I was introduced to him by my old friend, Don Francisco Buccarelli:--I never shall forget dining with him at a kind of Table d'Hotes, in a tavern opposite the Escorial;--as chance would have it, many more illustrious characters dined with us that day; there was the Count, his wife's cousin, and myself, on one side of the table; --Count Cobentzel, and Baron Reidesdel (who were then on their travels) and Duke de Chartres (who had just come from Paris) sat opposite to us--Monsieur de Sartine (who come in the Duke's vis a vis) was at the foot of the table; and we put Buccarelli in the chair——we had an excellent dinner--the wine was good--and we toasted the Madrid beauties in bumpers of Packeretti--however, I was not so far gone but I can very well remember what Almodovar whispered in my ear, while *Cobentzel and Reidsdale* were drinking Maxamilian Joseph of Bavaria's health. Colonel (says he) *Il alte se volto Estremadura che molto*--I won't translate it. I feel

feel the respect due to Ambassadors.--But, will Ministry answer a plain question? I put it roundly, because I ask for a positive answer--Is there no treaty now on the tapis to cede Gibraltar, or Port Mahon?--I say, the neutrality of Spain is to be trucked for by the dismembring this country of its best possessions.—Here he proceeded to read variety of Gazettes, American News-papers, two or three Treaties, letters from gallant Officers in all parts of the world; accounts of Clinton's retreat; transactions of Lord Howe, and Mons. D'Estaing; Alderman Oliver's letter--affair at Rhode Island, &c. &c. &c. he went also into a string of similar surmises, recognized various intimates in Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, and interspersed the whole with a multiplicity of anecdotes, proverbs, quotations, menaces and bon mots --concluding, that having then read to the house all the various papers he himself could collect, he found it necessary to give his vote for the Amendment as the only way to get at more.

Mr. H.
St -y.

Mr. H. St--y observed, that many Gentlemen had deviated from the business immediately before the house, which, in his opinion, was merely this: Whether this house will or will not support his M——y, and the executive powers of government, in the endeavours to recal the Americans to obedience, and

and to punish the natural enemies of this country? * That his own opinion was determined by a conviction of the necessity, in this hour of difficulty and distress, for exertion and firmness. Much has been said of the wealth and resources of France in comparison of those of England. I can only say, Sir, from all the observations I have been able to make, that France is, with respect to its finances, certainly an impoverished country. It has not yet recovered the impression made by the last war; and, whatever Gentlemen may think, neither Mons. Neckar (whom I very much respect) nor any other person, will be able, at least for a great length of time, to overturn the old mode of attainment of French money; I mean, Sir, by the vehicle of the *Fermeurs Generaux*. It must be a minister of great courage indeed, and a King of Terrors, that will new model the French finances; new taxes may be imposed, but I much doubt of the collection of them. When a good contract has been long in possession, it is too sweet to resign easily; and the *Fermeurs Genereaux* are too important to be offended, especially, when the state is necessitated to

* Whilst Mr. St--y was speaking, Mr. B--g was making numerical criticisms on the state of the House, which Mr. R-b-nf-n had done before, with his usual assiduity; and had taken his place at the door accordingly.

have recourse to their assistance. In saying this, I give full credit to *Monf. Neckar* for his attempt to improve the revenue of France, and that too, when the attempt is surrounded with so much difficulty and danger.—The revenue of this country, Sir, has not suffered by the American war; the surpluses of the sinking fund, are as great as during the state of perfect peace with America. Other countries have taken from us those manufactures which we exported before with bounties to America.

As I think Britain is still equal to resist, and, I trust, to subdue all its Enemies, I am clearly for the Motion which has been proposed, and seconded, by the honourable Gentlemen, with so much credit to themselves, and with so particular a desert of the approbation of their Country.

Gen. C-n---y. Mr, Sp——r, I beg pardon for troubling the House with one short word, Sir, at this late hour of the night, Sir, when there are many Gentlemen very desirous—and much more capable than I am, of speaking--upon so material--so important--so comprehensive a business--I may say, Sir---as that which now immediately comes before us--for our deliberation.—In doing this, Sir—in offering my poor sentiments—upon this matter, Sir—I own, I feel some degree of warmth, at the supineness

*Gen.
C-n---y.*

pineness—at the coolness—I may say—of the Ministers in so dangerous—so hazardous—and, God knows, probably so destructive an hour———And, Sir, I hope I may suggest my thoughts at so critical a period, when, indeed, all Europe and America are convulsed—and shaken—by the imbecillity, the inattention, and the indecision of Ministers; who have so supinely, so coolly, and so indecisively sat *with their hands before them*, waiting for events—and contingencies——In saying this, Sir,—I mean not to throw any reflexion upon any of them—Most of them I know to be men of honour and ability—but, Sir, I beg pardon, Sir, for taking up the time of the house—Sir, I think the moment is past when any system can prevail, I mean on the part of this country over America. Your West-India Islands are unprotected—Dominica is gone—Who knows but Jamaica is gone too? What force have you at Antigua? I understand, Admiral Barrington is gone from Barbadoes. What is to become of St. Vincents and Grenada? Good God! Sir, will the Nation sit still under these apprehensions? Have Ministers taken care of Ireland? Does the Noble Lord underneath me know the state of Guernsey and Jersey? Will they be able to resist Count Broglio with 50,000 men? Is your force, particularly

larly at Jersey, equal to resistance—Sir, at this moment, I tremble for Jersey*.

In one short word, Sir, I beg pardon--- I do trust in God, Sir...in the King...Sir, and in the spirit of this unhappy Nation, Sir, that we shall be relieved from these dreadful apprehension, and difficulties, and that we shall see once more, Peace, Harmony, and Wisdom, resume their order in this country, in the stead of weakness, irresolution, wavering folly, absurd doubts, and indecision, Sir.

Mr S--b--ge ————— Example-- impeach-
ment--axes --Tower -- blood -- Sister Mac-
--ly-- republicanism--Washington, greatest
man in the World--will be heard-- tyranny
at Warley-Common— militia men turned to
road-pioneers — undermining trees --- sand in
bread---waste of powder---Middlesex election
--- vast expence of flints --- triennial parlia-
ments --- body politic --- ill-humours --- state-
surgeons --- example --- axes --- Tower --- blood
————— *Da Capo*

The question being now called for with most violent impatience, the House prepared to divide. ————— The Editor cannot but lament that the eloquence of the day is comprisable in so small a compass.--He re-

* N. B. G—l C—y is Governor of it. — Query, Whether he had not better be there at this dangerous crisis?

grets, with many others, the silence of those who might have been supposed, from attachment, from principle, and a sense of honour, to have taken a more decided part in the debate. Probably it might be considered too severe to impute the conduct of those Gentlemen to the precariousness of the times, to the expectation of new Administrations, or to the fretfulness of an insatiable avarice of wealth and power.

Little more remains to add, than that the House having become very clamorous for a division, at half past three the question on the Amendment being put, the motion was rejected by a majority of 261 to 148. Tellers for the Ayes, Mr T. T——nd and Mr B——ng—for the Noes, Sir G——y C——r and Mr C—— T——nd. ——— The main question being then put, the original Address was carried in nearly the same proportion.

Immediately after the division, the H——e were much astonished at Mr C——s T-rn-r's calling their attention to a most libellous, nefarious, and enormous pamphlet, entitled *Anticipation*, calculated to misrepresent the debates, and vilify the proceedings of P———t; observing, that the publication

lication of Honourable Gentlemen's speeches *before* they could possibly have been spoken, was infinitely more dangerous to the constitution than mistating them after they had actually been delivered; as not only the public were thereby much more likely to be deceived, but many country Gentlemen were most illegally hurried up to town before the time, to the great annoyance of themselves and cattle. Besides, what struck at the very heart-strings of debate, many good speeches were marred thereby, and Honourable Gentlemen stopt from repeating their own words, lest they should authenticate the said publication.

For all which reasons, he humbly moved, that THOMAS BECKET, the Publisher of a pamphlet, entitled, *Anticipation*, be immediately taken into custody by a Messenger of this House, together with all printed books, books of accounts, manuscripts, memorandums, papers, &c. &c. in his shops and warehouses, in order that this House may be enabled thereby to discover the Author or Authors of this very black conspiracy. He moved also, that the several statutes against forgery, coining, and uttering, knowing to be false, forestallers, and regrators, &c. &c. be forthwith all read. And further—— But, the laughter having now become intense, the remnant of his oratory was cut short by a

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most clamorous repetition of *Adjourn, Adjourn*; so that it was impossible for the Editor to collect the result of this important motion.

And then the House adjourned till the morning, nine of the clock.



F I N I S.

THE Gentlemen trading to the East-Indies, West-Indies. and other parts, who intend taking or sending thither any pamphlets this season, are hereby informed, that this work is authentic, faithful, and strictly impartial; and as the nice and discerning eye of the British islands and settlements near us, must feel an interest in these matters, good allowance will be given for taking quantities.---Also the best Dutch wax, and stationary wares.



